

NSC BRIEFING

24 July 1960

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SOVIET POLICY DEVELOPMENTS

- I. Khrushchev is in a very truculent mood, and the list of Soviet threats and charges against the US is growing daily.
 - A. Recently the Soviet Union has:
 1. Threatened a Berlin crisis if the West German Bundestag holds a session in West Berlin.
 - a. The Communists claim this could be cause for concluding a separate peace treaty with East Germany.
 2. Threatened counter-action if Polaris missiles are stationed in West Germany.
 3. Condoned East German harassment of western military liaison missions in East Germany.
 4. Renewed protests against recruitment of West Berliners for the West German army and agitation against espionage centers in West Berlin.
 5. Attempted to exploit the RB-47 incident and threatened US aircraft approaching Soviet ships at sea.
 6. Launched a massive propaganda campaign against so-called US aggressive designs against Cuba and the Congo, threatened use of force on both issues.

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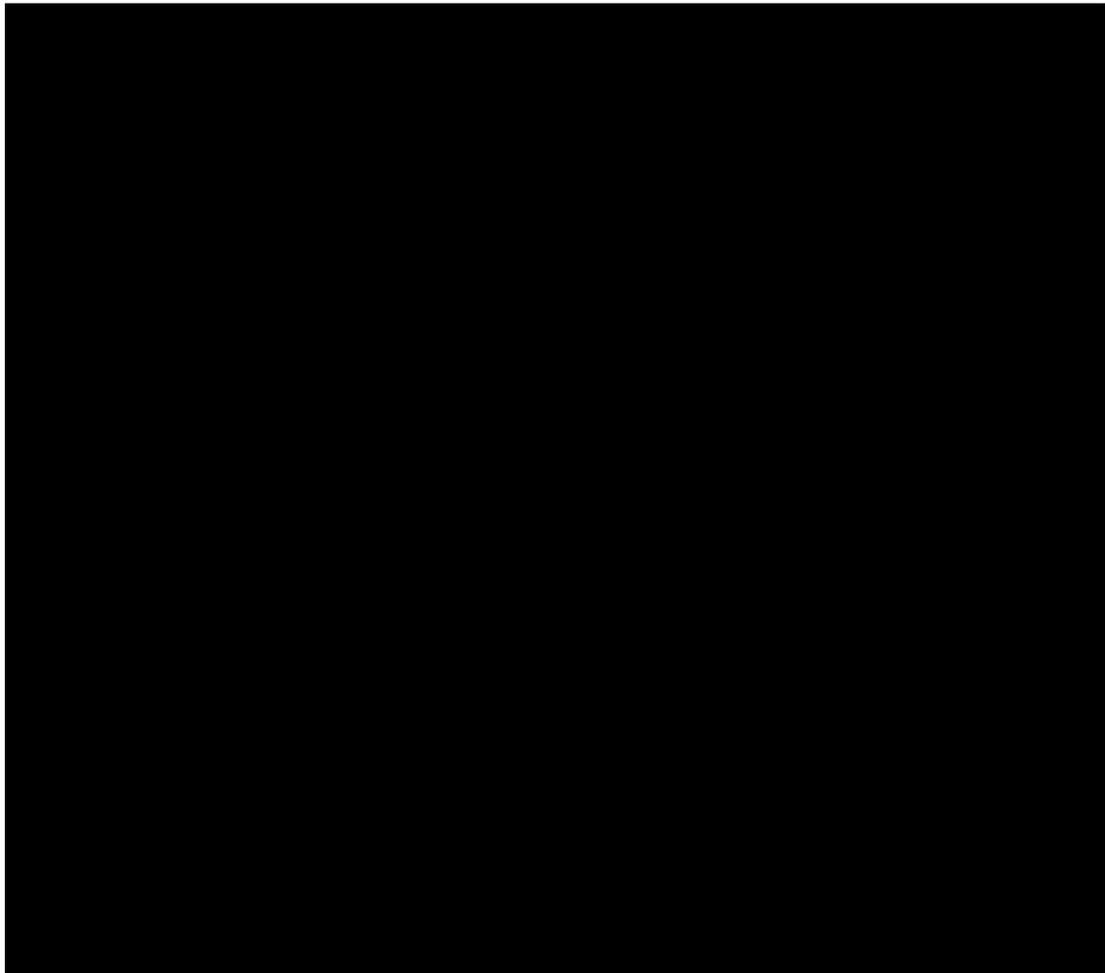
7. Walked out of the Geneva disarmament conference.

II. These moves reflect an apparent confidence on the part of Soviet leaders that the pre-election period in the US affords them an opportunity to press issues to an extent which might prove more risky and less rewarding at another time.

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A. Khrushchev told [REDACTED] that nothing could convince him the West would fight to save Berlin.

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- a. Both Khrushchev and Gromyko emphasized that a meeting of the West German Bundestag in Berlin this fall would result in immediate conclusion of a separate peace treaty.
- b. The East Germans would then gradually stop all flow of traffic from West Germany.

B. The immediate Soviet objective obviously is to frighten US allies and drive a wedge between the US and its friends.

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1. This intention was recently confirmed

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[REDACTED]

who said the USSR will scare the daylights out of America's allies and will not allow the US a moment's rest until President Eisenhower leaves office.

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2. [REDACTED] asserted that the USSR would support any nationalist movement which embarrasses the US.

C. Beyond this immediate objective we see also an effort to strengthen the Soviet position before resuming negotiations on major East-West issues.

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- D. With a combination of threats and warnings Khrushchev is also trying to offset the damage done to Soviet military posture by the U-2 incident.
- III. We do not see the present Soviet attitude as a fundamental or permanent shift in Soviet foreign policy.
- A. Since the Summit, Khrushchev and other Soviet spokesmen have continued to insist that peaceful coexistence and negotiation are basic Soviet policies.
 - B. His attacks are all focused on the present administration and he seems to feel that for the next few months he can continue an all-out anti-American campaign without irreparably damaging his chances of reopening negotiations later.

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